For P.H.M - July/84-

Resolutions adopted at a business meeting of Synodical Committees of Home Missions held at Saratoga, May 23d, 1884.

Mrs. Bailey of Penn., offered a resolution in regard to the recommendation of the General Assembly, that the work of the Freedmen be assumed by the Woman's Executive Committee as follows:-

Whereas, A Memorial from a number of women having been sent to the General Assembly, asking for some plan by which they can aid in work forthe colored people at the South without forming a new organization, and the answer havingg been received,

Therefore, Resolved

1st. That if approved by the Board of Home Missions, we make trial of the plan proposed to us by the General Assembly.

2nd. Resolved- That in case of such arrangement, Mrs. R. H. Allen, one of our Vice Presidents, be appointed Secretary of this department of work.

3d. Resolved- That hereafter societies should strive to support schools rather than teachers, and scholarships rather than scholars.

Report of the Freedmens Department of the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions.

The Womans Executive Committee of Home Missions, cordially receiving the recommendation of the General Assembly with the Approval of the Home Board organized a Freedmen's Department with head quarters at Pittsburgh, Pa.

* The time between the meeting of the Assembly of 1884 and the actual organization of the Department was spent, by those most interested, in writing letters to Individuals and Presbyterial Societies setting forth the needs of this work. A circular letter was prepared and sent to Presbyterial Officers asking 1st That a paper or address on the subject of "Our New Work" be put on the pro-

gramme for their next meeting; and 2d That some one be appointed in each Presbyterial Society to have especial oversight of the work.

How far the first suggestion was complied with we cannot tell. Twenty four Presbyterial Societies acting upon the second, appointed officers to look after this department of work and reported the names to us. Other Presbyterial Societies will doubtless make such appointments at their Spring meetings.

The Board of Missions for Freedmen appointed the following ladies to constitute the Freedmen's Department, giving them the liberty of adding to their number when, in their judgment, it was deemed best. Mesdames Logan, Chalfant, ~~Jones~~, Dalzell, Baldwin, Miller, ~~Kelly~~, ~~Scott~~, Allen, Coulter and Misses Morehead, McClelland and

Park. Mesdames Chalfant, Jones, Kelly, Scott and Miss Park being unable to serve, Mrs Kumler, Mrs. Lloyd and Miss Jones were appointed.

At the first meeting held Dec. 3 1884 Mesdames Fisher & Kingsbury were added. It was resolved that our meetings be held on the second Wednesday of each month at half past two o'clock in the office of the Board of Missions for Freedmen.

Four regular meetings have been held at which such earnestness has been exhibited and such a willingness to work, that we feel assured that this Department, which is the outgrowth of your generous sympathy & kindly care, will be instrumental in rescuing many who "shall shine as the stars for ever and ever".

The object of this Department is two fold. 1st To collect the children

into schools and give them re=
ligious as well as secular instruction.
2. To reach the women by visiting
them from house to house, teaching
them how to care for their families
and make attractive Christian homes.
Where it is practicable, women and
children are collected into sewing
classes, and taught to cut, make
and mend their own clothes.
In order that these ideas may be
carried out, we wish to send our
lady missionaries two by two.
Last fall the Board commissioned
twelve lady teachers, seven of whom
are occupying new fields. Two
were sent to Pointe Coupee, La;
the only missionaries of our Board
in that state. Two are at Hender=
sonville among the mountains in
the western part of North Carolina.
Two occupy a new station in

Amelia Co. Va. One, the widow of a Clergyman, is in East Tennessee. All these ladies are doing a work for which we are truly thankful.

Mrs. Allen spent the month of February among the Churches of N. York and Brooklyn and also attended the Presbyterial Societies of Troy and Albany. She was every where cordially received & the ladies showed their hearty interest in the work by pledging teachers salaries - Scholarships - and contributing to the general fund.

Of the amount of money received for this Department you will be informed by your Treasurer, Mrs Boyd.

Special interest has been shown in our work by several Presbyteries in the Synod of N. York, particularly those of Albany, Troy & Rochester; also by the Presbyteries of the Synod

of Penna., among these, as is natural, Pittsburgh and Allegheny lead. Great interest is also manifested by some of the Presbyteries of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa.

Early in February it was suggested, by a zealous Co-worker in Illinois, that as Washington's birthday came this year on Sabbath, the Children of the Church be asked to contribute, on that day for Educational work among the Freedmen as many pennies or nickels as they were years old. Older persons could also have the privilege of contributing. The plan commended itself to the Ladies and also to the Board of Missions for Freedmen. A circular was prepared and sent to the Sunday Schools. As a result of this, contributions have been already received amounting to about $15000,

Although this money has not passed through Mrs. Boyds hands and therefore cannot be credited by her, we know that you will rejoice with us that this additional gift has been made.

The work is indeed very great, but the "good hand of our God is upon us" and "our hands are strengthened for this good work."

We ask your sympathy and prayers for this Infant Department and its officers.

Mrs. C. E. Carlton
Cor. Sec'y.

Pittsburgh. Pa
March 31st 1885.

Mrs. Coulter's
Report - per
Anc Mkt. Circ.
4-7-85

ACTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN REGARD TO WORK AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

Whereas - The last Assembly commended the work among the Freedmen to the sympathy and aid of the women of the Church, and urged them to take hold of it with the same spirit with which they have taken hold of other departments of church work; but suggested no plan of operation; and

Whereas There are those within the knowledge of your Committee who are willing and anxious to do what they can to carry out thetwishes of the Assembly, but are in doubt as to the best mode of procedure under existing circumstances, and desire this Assembly to devise some plan of action; and

Whereas It is thought undesirable either to interfere with what is now being done in other departments of church work, or to add to existing organizations;-

Therefore

RESOLVED I That this Assembly recommends the Woman's Executive Committe off Home Missions to permit such societies under its care as may desire to do so, to contribute according to their pleasure to the cause of the Freedmen, and send the results to the Woman's Executive Committee to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Board of Missions for Freedmen.

RESOLVED II- That the Board of Missions for Freedmen be directed to provide means by which the necessary information as to the needs of the Board, methods of operation &c, be furnished to these societies when desired, keep a separate account of what is thus accomplished, and report the same to each General Assembly.

The above is a true copy of the action of the General Assembly in the matter to which it refers.
Attest:-

Wm. H. Roberts,
Stated Clerk.

On motion of Mrs. Langdon, the report from the General Assembly was accepted.